



## 2000-2001 Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Results

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### ABOUT THE SAT

The SAT is a national examination, offered through the College Board, designed to assess a student's chances of success at the college level. Nationwide, 1,276,320 students in the 2001 graduating class took the SAT I prior to graduation - a 1.3% increase from 2000. In Wake County, the number of seniors taking the SAT I rose to 4,042 in 2000-2001 from 3,853 in 1999-00, a 4.9% increase.

There are two types of SAT exams: SAT I and SAT II. The SAT I is a reasoning assessment of students' verbal and mathematical skills. The SAT II tests students in specific subject areas. This bulletin summarizes national, state, and county SAT I data.

In April 1995, the College Board *recentered* the score scales for students taking the SAT to reflect the contemporary test-taking population. Recentering allows for easier interpretation of scores and simple comparisons between students' verbal and mathematical abilities.

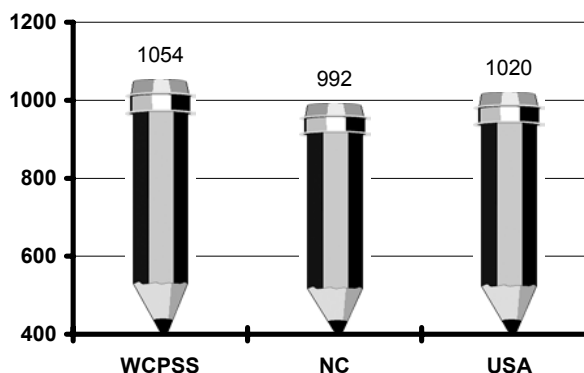
To permit comparisons with previous years, the College Board has provided conversions of old scores to the new scale. Conversions and new scales are used throughout this bulletin.

### DISTRICTWIDE RESULTS

The average SAT score for Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) seniors in 2000-2001 was 1054, a seven point drop from the score of 1061 achieved in 1999-00. Despite the drop, the 1054 average was fifth highest in the state. Chapel Hill-Carrboro led with 1185.

The average score for WCPSS students fell by 7 points after six consecutive years of rising scores. Across North Carolina the average score rose four points while the national average rose one point. As shown in Figure 1, the WCPSS average score remains substantially higher than the North Carolina and United States averages.

Figure 1: Average Total SAT Score



Participation of the 2001 WCPSS senior class did not change from the previous year, remaining at 79% of graduating seniors, far above both the state and national participation rates. US participation rose one point to 45%, and North Carolina participation rose one point to 65%.

The participation rate in WCPSS was calculated by dividing the number of senior students who took the SAT by the size of the 2001 graduating class. Participation rates were near the 75% mark for 10 years, and rose to 79% for the past two years. Participation rates reported by the College Board are based upon estimates of enrollment compiled through national surveys. While the College Board rates are probably accurate at the state and national level, they are not accurate at the district and individual school level. Participation rates for WCPSS in this report have been calculated from district records.

The average WCPSS senior taking the test scored 20 points higher on the math test and 14 points higher on the verbal test than the average senior across the country. WCPSS average math scores in 2001 were 36 points higher than they were in 1990 while average verbal scores in 2001 were 19 points higher than in 1990. (See Figure 2)

As shown in Figure 2, the WCPSS total score increase of 55 points since 1990 greatly exceeds both the national increase of 19 points and the North Carolina increase of 44 points.

**Figure 2: WCPSS, NC, and USA Scores Over Time**

Year	WCPSS				NC				USA			
	Total	Math	Verbal	Part. Rate	Total	Math	Verbal	Part. Rate	Total	Math	Verbal	Part. Rate
2001	1054	534	520	78.6	992	499	493	65	1020	514	506	45
2000	1061	539	522	79.3	988	496	492	64	1019	514	505	44
1999	1059	537	522	76.3	986	493	493	61	1016	511	505	43
1998	1052	531	521	75.6	982	492	490	62	1017	512	505	43
1997	1047	529	518	73.6	978	488	490	59	1016	511	505	42
1996	1042	525	517	73.3	976	486	490	59	1013	508	505	41
1995	1039	524	515	76.0	970	482	488	60	1010	506	504	41
1994	1030	520	510	75.0	964	482	482	60	1003	504	499	42
1993	1031	521	510	76.0	964	481	483	60	1003	503	500	43
1992	1025	516	509	74.0	961	479	482	57	1001	501	500	42
1991	1007	508	499	75.0	952	474	478	57	999	500	499	42
1990	999	498	501	73.0	948	470	478	55	1001	501	500	40

Last year, WCPSS had the second highest score of districts across the state. This year WCPSS ranked fifth. Chapel Hill-Carrboro continues to lead NC districts with a score of 1185 in 2001.

**Figure 3: Top NC District Scores**

System	2001	2000	1999
Buncombe County	1060	1059	1056
Chapel Hill	1185	1175	1059
Madison	1070	964	1024
Watauga	1057	1054	1055
WCPSS	1054	1061	1059

The large urban districts in North Carolina showed mixed results in 2001. Scores for seniors in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools rose, but scores in the other four urban districts fell.

**Figure 4: Comparison of Wake to Similar Large North Carolina Districts**

LEA	2001				2000			
	Total	Math	Verbal	Part. Rate	Total	Math	Verbal	Part. Rate
USA	1020	514	506	45	1019	514	505	44
NC	992	499	493	65	988	496	492	64
Wake County	1054	534	520	78.6	1061	539	522	79.3
Charlotte-Mecklenburg	997	500	497	72.3	989	497	492	71.9
Durham	992	498	494	76.8	994	500	494	75.5
Guilford	998	503	495	73.8	999	504	495	73.8
Winston-Salem/Forsyth	1000	502	498	69.3	1003	502	501	68.9

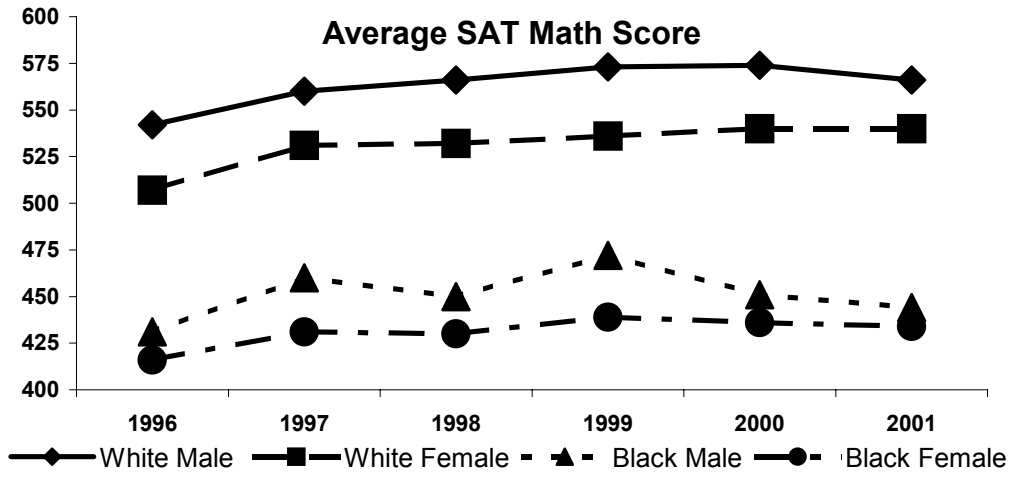
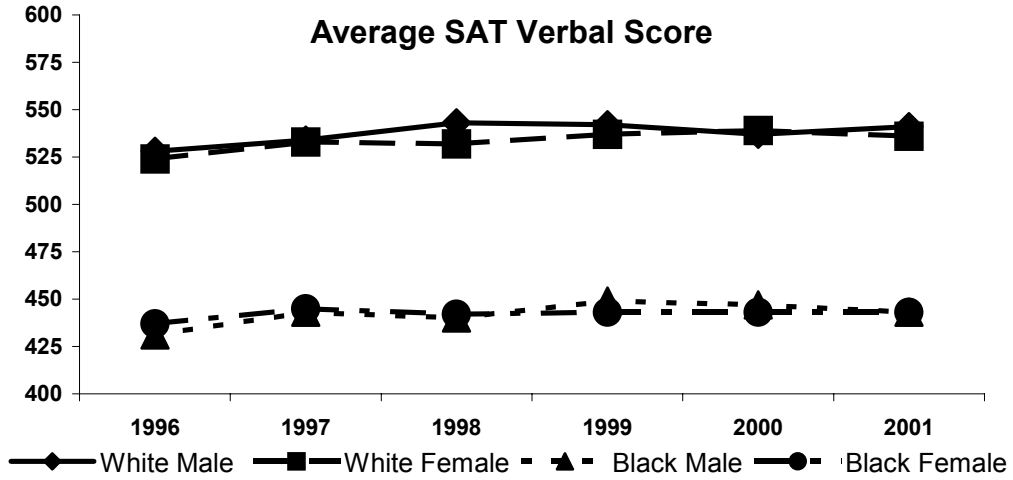
The score for the average WCPSS student compared well to students in other similar large school districts in other states as illustrated in Figure 5. While WCPSS exceeded several districts, the average score was lower than the average score in Fairfax County, Virginia.

**Figure 5: Comparison of Wake to Similar Large Urban/Suburban Districts**

2000-2001 SAT Scores	Verbal	Math	Total	Part. Rate
Wake County, NC	520	534	1054	78.6
Cobb County, GA	513	511	1024	NA
Gwinnett County, GA	505	522	1027	NA
Fairfax County, VA	540	553	1093	NA
Virginia Beach, VA	509	500	1009	NA

Figures 6-8 show that significant gaps continue to exist between the average scores of males and females and Black and White students. As shown in Figure 6, the gap between Black and White students has changed little during the past five years. While there is almost no difference between male and female scores on the Verbal test, scores on the mathematics test show a persistent pattern of average scores for males exceeding average scores for females.

**Figure 6: Disaggregated WCPSS SAT Math and Verbal Scores Over Time**



**Figure 7: 2000-2001 Disaggregated SAT Scores**

LEA	BLACK			WHITE			FEMALE			MALE		
	V	M	Tot	V	M	Tot	V	M	Tot	V	M	Tot
USA	433	426	859	529	531	1060	502	498	1000	509	533	1042
NC	418	417	835	517	524	1041	490	486	976	497	515	1012
Wake County	443	438	881	538	552	1090	516	520	1036	524	549	1073

**Figure 8: WCPSS Disaggregated Results by School For 2000-2001**

SCHOOL	%	TOTAL			ETHNICITY						GENDER					
					BLACK			WHITE			MALE			FEMALE		
		V	M	T	V	M	T	V	M	T	V	M	T	V	M	T
Apex	83.7%	536	558	1094	448	442	890	540	563	1103	536	564	1100	536	552	1088
Athens	80.7%	520	556	1076	441	471	912	536	567	1103	517	566	1083	522	546	1068
Broughton	88.8%	526	545	1071	422	416	838	545	566	1111	533	558	1091	520	533	1053
Cary	80.3%	525	539	1064	490	491	981	542	543	1085	527	552	1079	524	528	1052
East Wake	75.5%	470	485	955	411	418	829	487	503	990	476	496	972	466	478	944
Enloe	90.2%	573	575	1148	453	445	898	618	617	1235	583	604	1187	565	555	1120
Fuquay	67.8%	474	499	973	394	396	790	484	508	992	480	518	998	469	480	949
Garner	49.7%	476	494	970	429	438	867	497	519	1016	465	498	963	482	492	974
Leesville	87.3%	525	541	1066	430	439	869	540	553	1093	521	550	1071	528	533	1061
Millbrook	78.4%	495	506	1001	448	429	877	528	540	1068	493	514	1007	497	500	997
Sanderson	82.2%	522	535	1057	441	422	863	545	558	1103	534	552	1086	511	520	1031
SE Raleigh	83.8%	523	523	1046	456	444	900	550	553	1103	543	550	1093	501	492	993
Wake Forest	77.8%	508	517	1025	449	434	883	521	534	1055	511	537	1048	505	496	1001
USA	45.0%	506	514	1020	433	426	859	529	531	1060	509	533	1042	502	498	1000
NC	65.0%	493	499	992	418	417	835	517	524	1041	497	515	1012	490	486	976
Wake County	78.6%	520	534	1054	443	438	881	538	552	1090	524	549	1073	516	520	1036

NOTE: Race and Gender are self-reported by students who take the SAT. Numbers come from College Board reports.

**Figure 9: Wake County Public School System School-by-School SAT 1997-2000 Scores**

	2000-2001				1999-2000				1998-99				1997-98			
	Part. Rate	Verbal	Math	Total	Part. Rate	Verbal	Math	Total	Part. Rate	Verbal	Math	Total	Part. Rate	Verbal	Math	Total
USA	45%	506	514	1020	44%	505	514	1019	43%	505	511	1016	43%	505	512	1017
NC	65 %	493	499	992	64 %	492	496	988	61%	493	493	986	62%	490	492	982
Wake County	78.6%	520	534	1054	79.2%	522	539	1061	76.3%	522	537	1059	75.6%	521	531	1052
Apex	83.7%	536	558	1094	85.9%	526	551	1077	83.1%	530	552	1082	78.6%	541	558	1099
Athens	80.7%	520	556	1076	82.8%	523	550	1073	79.0%	515	535	1050	76.5%	513	537	1050
Broughton	88.8%	526	545	1071	78.6%	526	551	1077	81.7%	528	549	1077	82.7%	534	550	1084
Cary	80.3%	525	539	1064	79.4%	525	544	1069	83.1%	524	541	1065	76.2%	522	528	1050
East Wake	75.5%	470	485	955	68.7%	470	487	957	67.0%	476	486	962	67.9%	470	485	955
Enloe	90.2%	573	575	1148	88.1%	580	577	1157	86.9%	581	585	1166	86.7%	562	565	1127
Fuquay	67.8%	474	499	973	71.1%	497	505	1002	62.0%	494	496	990	54.4%	489	489	978
Garner	49.7%	476	494	970	64.5%	488	500	988	58.1%	482	501	983	57.4%	492	506	998
Leesville	87.3%	525	541	1066	86.9%	539	557	1096	83.6%	536	549	1085	85.7%	538	545	1083
Millbrook	78.4%	495	506	1001	76.2%	515	530	1045	74.7%	513	519	1032	73.1%	502	509	1011
Sanderson	82.2%	522	535	1057	82.5%	518	552	1070	80.8%	514	554	1068	78.6%	514	525	1039
SE Raleigh	83.8%	523	523	1046	73.8%	500	509	1009	66.4%	492	505	997	NA	NA	NA	NA
Wake Forest	77.8%	508	517	1025	76.4%	500	517	1017	79.5%	511	517	1028	72.7%	517	522	1039

The participation rate is the percentage of graduating seniors who took the SAT I.